



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1406 Longworth House Office Building • Washington, D.C. 20515 • (202) 225-5506

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 5, 2004

Contact: Darin Schroeder
Phone: 202-225-5506

KIND INTRODUCES ELECTRONIC DUCK STAMP ACT

Legislation would establish program allowing hunters to purchase federal duck stamps over Internet or by phone

Washington, DC – With Wisconsin's 2004 duck hunting season officially under way, Congressman Ron Kind has introduced legislation which would simplify the process of purchasing a federal duck stamp. The Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2004 (HR4685) (*e-Duck Stamp Act*), introduced by Kind and Mississippi Republican Rep. Chip Pickering, will allow sportsmen to purchase their federal duck stamps over the Internet, by phone, or at automated stamp machines at hunting and outdoor stores.

"Wisconsin sportsmen make an impact on our state's economy of over \$4 billion annually," said Kind. "Making it easier for hunters, especially those living in rural areas, to purchase their license over the Internet will increase participation and keep this sport and industry strong."

Since its creation in 1934, the Federal Duck Stamp program has become one of the most popular and successful conservation programs ever initiated. Because of it, our country again is teeming with migratory waterfowl and other wildlife that benefit from the wetland habitats. Today, 1.7 million migratory bird hunting and conservation stamps are sold each year. As of 2003, the sale of Federal Duck Stamps has generated more than \$600,000,000 in revenue that has been used to preserve over 5 million acres of migratory waterfowl habitat in the United States. These funds have paid for all or part of 540 national wildlife refuges in the U.S.

The *e-Duck Stamp Act* seeks to enhance the strong legacy of this important conservation program. Congressman Kind's legislation instructs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a pilot program in 15 states allowing sportsmen to purchase their federal duck stamps electronically. This act would not increase the cost of the \$15 federal duck stamp and hunters would still be able to purchase their stamps in the current manner. The *e-Duck Stamp* would be valid for 45 days in which time hunters would receive their traditional stamp by mail.

Congressman Kind is a member of the bipartisan Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and an avid duck and deer hunter.